DARRAGH CLIFFORD

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MANIFESTO FOR THE ROLE OF TECH OFFICER

My name is Darragh Clifford and I am currently studying Computer Science in Trinity. I am 19, coming from a small village in County Offaly called Clonbullogue. I have had an unforgettable experience in Trinity Hall over the last year – full of amazing experiences and incredible people. I would like to continue this experience, sharing it with even more people while giving back to the Halls community by becoming a tech officer. The JCR plays a much larger role in the whole Halls experience than I could have ever imagined, each event that is organised is unmissable and the whole group of people are friendly, approachable and very supportive. I would love to be part of the next JCR committee and continue this legacy from the tech side of things. It is not possible to enter even the front gates without the use of tech, so I would love to be able to support the newcomers as the transition can be daunting and confusing.

PROFILE

ABOUT ME

I am a motivated, high achieving student at Trinity College Dublin. I possess a wide variety of skills which I have developed over the past three years – communication, leadership, management, teamwork along with technological and problem solving skills. I love a good challenge! I am super outgoing and always on-the-go meeting new people. I love learning about and interacting with people of new cultures. In my spare time, I love to get out-and-about talking to people. I also enjoy programming when I have the time!

SKILLS & CHARACTERISTICS

Tech skills,

Deep thinking,

Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite,

Excellent communication skills,

Great leadership and managerial skills developed through Student Enterprise,

Exemplary problem-solving skills.

AWARDS

Trinity Entrance Exhibition Award,

Student of the Year 2019,

Gaisce Bronze – President's Award,

Multiple punctuality and academic excellence awards.

'Highly Commendable' Enterprise Award of Merit awarded to Student Enterprise company.

Award for Youth Social Innovators project promoting diversity.

EXPERIENCE

HUGO BOSS IT

I worked full-time for Hugo Boss in the past and I continue to work there part-time. Through my time working in Boss, I have been responsible for communicating with Hugo Boss IT services, including reporting faulty systems and collaborating to fix IP devices. I have helped to diagnose errors with our printers, wireless connections and scanning devices. I also gained excellent interaction and people skills as I was working in a customer-facing role. This role really boosted my team working and leadership skills, also.

SCHOOL CLUBS

I have always been involved with school activities and I continue to take part in societies' activities in college. I took part in Coderdojo in school, a club that gave me a solid foundation in coding. I was also an active member of the green schools program. This program helped us maintain a clean environment for the school. If anything ever went wrong with Chromebooks, projectors, computers or the WiFi, my teachers would often ask me to fix the problem – yes, I was *that* guy. I had been 'that guy' since primary school. I have certainly had a passion for technology for some time.

PAST PROJECTS

I always loved programming and development. In TY, I learned some Python to build on what I had already learned in the Coderdojo classes. I also built two websites. Since then, I have worked on a few projects and made numerous applications, all with various different functions to build on my knowledge. I also built two computers, one of which I still use.

THE LAZY COMPANY – SOCIAL MEDIA

For our Student Enterprise 'Minicompany' project, I was responsible for our social media, along with ordering stock. We sold 3-in-1 phone holders that could be worn around the users neck, as a stand or even in the car. I was responsible for our presence on social media and graphic design. I also managed finances and prepared our business report.

FAMILY BUSINESS

As part of my Dad's business, he is required to make use of IT in order to communicate effectively. I configure new devices such as printers and mobile devices. I also fix connectivity issues as they arise with our WiFi.

GRANDPARENTS…

I cannot say that I have worked for Google, won countless awards for my coding or developed the next million euro app, however, I do have grandparents and, for this role, I think that this may just be more significant. I am used to breaking down technical instructions into simple steps, so as not to overwhelm them with information or cause confusion. I am certainly the 'tech guy' for either side of my family, fixing anything that may go wrong. I would love to bring this to more people in Halls! I certainly have helped a few of my friends along the way this year.

Having built my own Windows computer and by using macOS on the daily, I am familiar with problems that can occur with both. I am also familiar with Linux and all mobile operating systems and I would like to say that I am confident that I can fix any problems that may pop up with any of the above. I am also very (unfortunately) familiar with the TCDwifi networks and the issues associated with it, having connected many, many devices over time.

WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO

INDUCTION TCD WEB SERVICES TRAINING

Blackboard can be daunting. So can TCDwifi.

I would plan to hold an introductory workshop on getting Halls residents set up and ready to use TCDwifi, Blackboard and other tech that is dotted around the place, like the printers! This would include how to connect different devices to the WiFi network – phones, laptops and most confusingly iPad's. I would also aid newcomers with getting familiar with Blackboard, as this can be very confusing at first. I feel that doing this in person would be beneficial as it gives people the opportunity to get one-to-one help and it would also be an excellent way of making friends, because complaining about connecting to TCDwifi is always a good conversation starter!

CODING GROUP

Learn coding and get help with assignments.

There is practically no STEM or business degree that is safe from programming. This can be daunting – Especially to people whose degrees are not necessarily Computer Science, or in a related field. I would set up a regular workshop where people could bring their skills together, while I could help by teaching the core ideas of programming. It would also allow people with no coding experience to come in and learn something new. As I would only be teaching the core ideas, anyone from any level could drop in. It would be an excellent opportunity for people to come together and make new friends, too! I would start this off by telling people how to maximise their productivity and provide resources that helped me to code.

CHALLENGES

Build or add to an existing portfolio with projects.

Projects and challenges are one of the best and most engaging ways of learning to code. People can brainstorm together and come to a solution. These projects could be put on future CV's to impress future employers. I would like to host challenges on a regular basis to encourage people to come together and code. I would tailor these challenges so that all levels could partake

CONTINUE DIGITISING HALLS

Halls is already relatively high-tech, I'd like to do more.

It is no doubt that Trinity Hall is very modern and utilises modern technology, however, there is always room for growth. I would have loved to see the implementation of an automated COVID symptom/test reporter system that would directly contact reception, as this was not necessarily clear this year. It would also speed things up in. A potentially critically situation. Furthermore, the inventory of the halls convenience store could be put on social media or even a website. Also, I would be delighted to communicate any potential improvements with Trinity IT in order to ensure the best possible experience for all.